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66-3595

16 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

Jack:

The attached is the first time I think I have been asked to pass on a proposal to furnish information of this type to the press. I don't know what past practice has been, but there are several questions which occur to me and which I would like to discuss with you:

a. Why do we want to furnish this information to [redacted]

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b. Would we want to or be willing to furnish it to the press generally? Why or why not?

c. If we do want to give it to [redacted] should [redacted] sign the letter as Deputy Director of Research and Reports? Wouldn't a personal letter be better, [redacted] or no letter or memorandum at all be preferable?

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d. Why do we want to invite [redacted] to talk about our JEC contributions?

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e. Are there other members of the public media to whom we would also like to issue such an invitation?

/s/
L. K. White

Attachments
Material re Soviet economic statistics

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cc: Assistant to the Director [redacted]
D/Security

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[redacted]

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OD/ORR: [redacted] :gkg [redacted] 1 Aug 66)

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The relatively favorable and very limited US press coverage of the mid-year Soviet economic statistics is something of a mystery to us. This letter, consequently, is to suggest that you take a new look at the numbers and their possible implications. [redacted] 25

translation of the 24 July Pravda article is enclosed.

We think that there is particular significance in the data:

- on investment
- on the energy industries
- on housing
- relating to the degree of implementation of Brezhnev's agricultural program
- and, especially, on machinery output

The Soviet release suggests strongly to us that, to date, not only has Kosygin made almost no progress in solving Soviet economic problems but also that these problems may be getting more serious -- possibly because the military establishment and space are getting a bigger slice of the pie.

The limited US press coverage, [redacted] 25X

has emphasized only a "steady rate of growth" (referring to the 8 percent growth in the gross value of industrial output) and has not recognized what we believe to be signs of new difficulties.

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